

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 SCCT-02 EUR-25 OPR-02

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /172 W

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R 111542Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8489

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISICO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMCONSUL ASMARA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 4104

E.O. 11652: NA

WAGS: PINS PINT SGEN ET

SUBJ: DISTURBANCES CONTINUE

REF: LA) ADDIS 3897 AND PREVIOUS; B) ASMARA 241

1. ADDIS APRL 11 WITNESSED LARGE ORDERLY DEMONSTRATIONS BY MUNICIPALITY WORKERS, DAY LABORERES AND STUDENTS. GROUP CIVIL SERVANTS. LABORERES AND YOUTHS, REPORTEDLY NUMBERING ABOUT 3,000 MARCHED THROUGH MAIN STREETS ADDIS TODAY, AMPLY SHEPHERDED BY POLICE. DEMANDS SAID INCLUDE ENACTMENT MINIMUM WAGE LAWS, REPALCEMENT ENDALKACHEW AND, ACCORDING SOME OBSERVERS,REMOVAL OF EMPEROR.

2. HIGH SCHOOLERS MET AT NEARBY SECONDARY SCHOOL TO DECIDE WHETHER RETURN TO CLASSES OR SERVE IN DROUGHT AREAS. HSIU STUDENTS MET INCONCLUSIVELY ON SAME SUBJECT LAST NIGHT. (ALL ADDIS PUBLIC SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND MOST PROVINCIAL ONES BOYCOTTED THIS PAST WEEK.) STUDENTS THEN MARCHED TO HSIU WHERE THEY BEGAN THROWING STONES WHEN GUARDS REFUSED

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ADMITTANCE. THEY EVENTUALLY ENTERED UNIVERISTY CAMPUS.

(HSIU HAS BEEN FUNCTIONING THIS WEEK AND NON-TEACHING STAFF DID NOT CARRY OUT THREATENED STRIKE)

3. SITUATION IN HARRAR AND JIGJIGA REMAINS UNCLEAR. HOWEVER, ACCORDING ONE SOURCE TENTH MECH STILL HOLDS TOWN AND ARRESTS CONTINUE. WE HAVE HEARD REPORT OF UNSPECIFIED TROUBLE IN DINCHU (BALE) WHERE POLICE CONTINGENT STATIONED.

4. ACCORDING RELIABLE SOURCE, THERE HAVE BEEN DEMONSTRATIONS TODAY IN DIER DAWA, WHERE SCHOOLS REMAIN CLOSED, AS THEY DO IN HARRAR. REPORTEDLY TRAIN TO ADDIS WAS DERAILED LAST NIGHT AND POLICE TODAY ARRESTED RAILWAY WORKERS IN DIRA DAWA. RAILWAY EMPLOYEES SAID BE ON STRIKE AND DEMANDING THEIR COLLEAGUES RELEASE.

5. WE UNDERSTAND JIMA (KEFFA) QUIET AS "PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE" CONTINUES MANAGING CITY, REPORTEDLY IN VERY EFFICIENT MANNER, INCLUDING FORMATION SUB-COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO DROUGHT STRICKEN AREA OF KEFFA NEAR SUDAN BORDER. MAKELLE ALSO SAID BE "NORMAL" BUT OUTLYING TOWNS, E.G. MAICHEW, ADUA, ADIGRAT, IN TIGRE PROVINCE SAID BE DISTURBED BY STRIKING LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF. THERE STUDENT DISTURBANCES IN DESSIE YESTERDAY BUT CITY CALM TODAY.

6. GONDAR REPORTEDLY STILL TENSE WITH PUBLIC HEALTH COLLEGE, SECONDARY SCHOOL AND COURTS CLOSED. POLICE TEAM FROM ADDIS IN TOWN TO INVESTIGATE LAST WEEK'S SHOOTING.

7. WE HAVE IMPRESSION NORMAL BUREAUCRATIC FUNCTIONS HAVE ALL BUT CEASED IN ADDIS TODAY, WITH MANY EMPLOYEES ON STRIKE OR REFUSING DO WORK IN OFFICES. CUSTOMS EMPLOYEES WENT ON STRIKE THIS AFTERNOON, THUS AFFECTING ALL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS. BUS DRIVER STRIKE CONTINUES AS ADDIS POPULACE PREPARES FOR EASTER HOLY DAYS AND END OF ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX LENTEN FAST TOMORROW.
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